

In the Claims:

Please amend the claims as set forth in the following Listing of the Claims.

LISTING OF THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for coating an article, said apparatus comprising:

an applicator comprising a convex exterior surface;

a conveyor for sequentially transporting a plurality of articles to said applicator; and

a metering bar comprising a fixed arcuate end positioned against said convex exterior surface of said applicator to meter a predetermined amount of coating composition to said convex exterior surface of said applicator for transfer from said convex exterior surface of said applicator to an article transported to said applicator by said conveyor,

said metering bar forming a nip with said convex exterior surface of said applicator and exerting a force against said applicator,

said predetermined amount of coating composition being determined, in part, by said force of said metering bar and a hydraulic force present at said nip.

2. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said applicator comprises a roller having a durometer of no greater than about 55 Shore A, said fixed arcuate end of said metering bar being positioned against said roller.

3. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said applicator is configured to enable the application of a substantially uniform layer of coating composition on articles having different dimensions.

4. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the end of said metering bar positioned against said applicator has a radius of at least about 2.5 mm.

5. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the end of said metering bar positioned against said applicator has a radius of at least about 4.0 mm.

6. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said metering bar and said applicator are arranged to enable said metering bar to exert a force of at least about 35 g/cm width against said applicator.

7. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said metering bar and said applicator are arranged to enable said metering bar to exert a force of from about 45 g/cm width to about 900 g/cm width against said applicator.

8. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said conveyor and said applicator are configured to enable said applicator to apply a coating to the edge face of a roll of tape disposed between said conveyor and said applicator.

9. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said applicator comprises a roller and said fixed arcuate end of said metering bar is positioned against said roller.

10. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said applicator comprises an endless belt.

11. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising a second applicator and a second metering bar positioned against said second applicator to meter a predetermined amount of coating composition to said second applicator, said second applicator being positioned to receive the article from said conveyor.

12. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 11, wherein said first applicator comprises a roller and said fixed arcuate end of said metering bar is positioned against said roller.

13. (Original) The apparatus of claim 12, wherein said second applicator comprises a roller.

14. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 11, wherein said first applicator comprises an endless belt.

15. (Original) The apparatus of claim 14, wherein said second applicator comprises an endless belt.

16. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 11, wherein said apparatus is capable of substantially simultaneously

- a) transferring a coating composition from said first applicator to a first side of the article, and
- b) transferring a coating composition from said second applicator to a second side of the article opposite said first side of the article.

17. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 11, wherein the article is a roll of tape and said apparatus is capable of substantially simultaneously

- a) transferring a coating composition from said first applicator to a first edge face of a roll of tape, and
- b) transferring a coating composition from said second applicator to a second edge face of the roll of tape opposite said first edge face of the roll of tape.

18. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 11, wherein said first applicator and said second applicator are positioned to maintain the article between said first applicator and said second applicator.

19. (Currently Amended) A system for manufacturing coated articles, said system comprising

a first station comprising a coating apparatus comprising

an applicator comprising a convex exterior surface,
a conveyor capable of sequentially transporting a plurality
of articles to said applicator, and

a metering bar positioned against said convex exterior
surface of said applicator to meter a predetermined amount of
coating composition to said convex exterior surface of said
applicator for transfer from said convex exterior surface of said
applicator to an article transported to said applicator by said
conveyor,

said metering bar forming a nip with said convex
exterior surface of said applicator and exerting a force
against said applicator,

said predetermined amount of coating composition
being determined, in part, by said force of said metering bar
and a hydraulic force present at said nip; and

a second station for solidifying the coating composition disposed
on the article.

20. (Previously presented) The system of claim 19, wherein said applicator
comprises a roller and said fixed arcuate end of said metering bar is positioned against
said roller.

21. (Original) The system of claim 19, wherein said applicator comprises an
endless belt.

22. (Original) The system of claim 19, wherein said conveyor is capable of
transporting a coated article to said second station.

23. (Original) The system of claim 19, further comprising a second conveyor
capable of transporting a coated article from said first station to said second station.

24. (Original) The system of claim 19, further comprising a second conveyor comprising a first endless belt and a second endless belt, said second conveyor being positioned to transport a coated article to said second station.

25. (Previously presented) The system of claim 19, further comprising a second applicator positioned to receive the article from said conveyor, and a second metering bar positioned against said second applicator to meter a predetermined amount of coating composition to said second applicator.

26. (Original) The system of claim 19, further comprising a second applicator positioned opposite said first applicator, and a second metering bar positioned against said second applicator to meter a predetermined amount of coating composition to said second applicator.

27. (Original) The system of claim 26, wherein said first applicator comprises a roller and said second applicator comprises a roller.

28. (Original) The system of claim 26, wherein said first applicator comprises an endless belt.

29. (Original) The system of claim 19, further comprising a second conveyor positioned to transport a coated article to said second station.

30. (Original) The system of claim 19, further comprising a second conveyor comprising a first endless belt and a second endless belt, said second conveyor being positioned to transport a coated article to said second station.

31. (Original) The system of claim 30, wherein said second conveyor is capable of transporting a coated article between said first endless belt and said second endless belt.

32. (Original) The system of claim 19, wherein said second station comprises a source of radiation.

33. (Original) The system of claim 32, wherein said source of radiation is capable of generating radiation selected from the group consisting of ultraviolet radiation and electron beam radiation.

34. (Original) The system of claim 19, wherein said solidifying comprises curing.

35. (Original) The system of claim 19, wherein said solidifying comprises drying.

Claims 36-56 (Cancelled)

57. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for coating an article, said apparatus comprising:

an applicator roller comprising a convex exterior surface;

a conveyor for sequentially transporting a plurality of articles to said roller; and

a metering bar comprising a fixed arcuate end positioned against said convex exterior surface of said roller to meter a predetermined amount of coating composition to said convex exterior surface of said roller for transfer from said convex exterior surface of said applicator to an article transported to said applicator by said conveyor.

58. (Previously Presented) A system for manufacturing coated articles, said system comprising

a first station comprising a coating apparatus comprising
an applicator,

a conveyor capable of sequentially transporting a plurality
of articles to said applicator, and

a metering bar positioned against said applicator to meter a predetermined amount of coating composition to said applicator for transfer to the article transported to said applicator by said conveyor;

a second applicator positioned to receive the article from said conveyor, and a second metering bar positioned against said second applicator to meter a predetermined amount of coating composition to said second applicator; and

a second station for solidifying the coating composition disposed on the article.

59. (Previously presented) The system of claim 58, wherein said second applicator is positioned opposite said first applicator.

60. (Previously presented) The system of claim 59, wherein said first applicator comprises a roller and said second applicator comprises a roller.

61. (Previously presented) The system of claim 59, wherein said first applicator comprises an endless belt.

62. (New) A method of coating an article using the coating apparatus of claim 1, said method comprising:

applying a liquid coating composition to said applicator; and
transferring said coating composition from said applicator to the article.

63. (New) The method of claim 62, wherein said coating composition has a viscosity of at least about 19 cps.

64. (New) The method of claim 62, further comprising curing said coated composition.

65. (New) The method of claim 62, further comprising drying said coated composition

66. (New) The method of claim 62, wherein the article comprises a roll of tape comprising a first edge face and a second edge face, and said transferring comprises transferring said coating composition from said applicator to the first edge face of the roll of tape.

67. (New) The method of claim 66, wherein the end of said metering bar positioned against said applicator has a radius of at least about 4 mm.

68. (New) The method of claim 66, wherein said metering bar exerts a force of at least about 35 g/cm width against said applicator.

69. (New) The method of claim 66, wherein said metering bar exerts a force of from about 45 g/cm width to about 900 g/cm width against said applicator.

70. (New) The method of claim 66, wherein said apparatus further comprises a conveyor positioned relative to said applicator for transporting a roll of tape to said applicator, said method further comprising disposing the first edge face of the roll of tape between the conveyor and the applicator.

71. (New) The method of claim 66, wherein said apparatus further comprises a second applicator positioned to receive the article, and a second metering bar positioned against said second applicator to meter a predetermined amount of coating composition to said second applicator, said method further comprising applying a coating composition from the second applicator to the second edge face of the roll of tape.

72. (New) The method of claim 66, further comprising substantially simultaneously transferring a coating composition to a first side of an article and a second side of the article opposite said first side of the article.

73. (New) The method of claim 66 further comprising substantially simultaneously transferring a coating composition to the first edge face of said roll of tape and the second edge face of said roll of tape.

74. (New) A method of using the apparatus of claim 1, said method comprising:

- providing a coating composition to the applicator;
- passing the edge face of a roll of tape to the applicator;
- contacting the edge face of the roll of tape with the applicator; and
- transferring the coating composition from the applicator to the edge face of the roll of tape.

75. (New) The method of claim 74, wherein the coating composition remains on the applicator in the absence of an article to be coated.